

Message Text

PAGE 01 BANGKO 18448 281216Z

17
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 100514
R 271131Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8541
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 18448

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN VICE MRN 17448

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS/ PINS, TH, BM
SUBJECT: CIF - CONVERSATION WITH EDITOR-IN-CHIEF BANGKOK POST

REF: BANGKOK 18447

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI NOV 27
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

CHIANG MAI 414

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: RECOMMEND EXEMPT
TAGS: PINS, TH, BM
SUBJECT: CIF - CONVERSATION WITH EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
BANGKOK POST

REFS: A. CHIANG MAI 407
B. CHIANG MAI 394

1. THEH CHONGKADIKIJ CAME BY FRIDAY MORNING FOR AN
OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION. HIS PURPOSE WAS TO SEEK
SECRET

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CONFIRMATION THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT SHARES HIS BELIEF
THAT CIF STILL ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. I SAID
THAT WE TOO HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT
AND ARE LOOKING TO RTG TO TAKE ACTION AS WARRANTED.

2. DURING CONVERSATION, THEH MADE SEVERAL POINTS ABOUT ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF RTG LEADERSHIP TOWARD CIF:

A. THEH SAID THAT EARLIER THIS MONTH HE HAD LUNCH WITH PRIME MINISTER WHO EXPRESSED BOTH CONCERN AND IGNORANCE ABOUT CIF ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO THEH, PM IS LOOKING TO THEH TO BRIEF HIM ON WHAT HE FINDS OUT IN THE NORTH.

B. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TNP, GEN. PRACHUAB HASSALSO TOLD THEH OF HIS CONCERN. HE SAID THAT POLICE CANNOT OPERATE FREELY IN THE BORDER AREAS BECAUSE OF SUPREME COMMAND STRICTURES. THEH SAID THAT PRACHUAB WAS ALSO LOOKING TO HIM TO FILL HIM IN ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA AND THAT PRACHUAB HAD RADIOED BPP HERE TO EXTEND EVERY COURTESY. (THIS IS PROBABLY RADIO MESSAGE REFERRED TO IN REF A).

3. THEH SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TRYING WITHOUT SUCCESS TO GET INTO GENERAL LI'S CAMP AT THAM NGOP, BUT THAT ONE OF HIS PEOPLE, KAMTHORN SERMKASEM, HAD MADE IT INTO GEN. TUAN'S CAMP AT MAE SALONG. HE MENTIONED THE NOVEMBER 22ND STORY IN THE POST AND TERMED "ABSURD", TUAN'S STATEMENTS THAT HE HAS STOPPED OPIUM TRADING.

4. THEH SAID THAT A HIGH-RANKING BPP GENERAL HAD RECENTLY VOICED SUSPICION THAT GEN. KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN WAS USING HIS CONNECTIONS WITH LI AND TUAN TO ENGAGE IN OPIUM TRADE HIMSELF. I SAID THAT I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF THAT WERE THE CASE.

5. THEH ALSO DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE OBVIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH RTG FACED BECAUSE OF ITS ARRANGEMENTS WITH KMT AND "TAIWAN INTELLIGENCE GROUP". THIS POSES PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES FOR THE MFA AS IT TRIES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BOTH BURMA AND THE PRC.

SECRET

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6. COMMENT: THEH WAS WELL INFORMED ON THE VARIOUS CIF ACTIVITIES AND ON DAWEE'S AND KRIANGSAK'S RELATIONS WITH THESE PEOPLE. BPP GENERAL'S CHARGES AGAINST KRIANGSAK COULD BE OPENING OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM. MONTGOMERY KINTNER

SECRET

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